UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/718,670	11/24/2003	Yoshihiko Sugawara	01-520	1631

23400	7590	10/07/2005

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, CUONG H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3661	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/718,670	SUGAWARA, YOSHIHIKO
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CUONG H. NGUYEN	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>15 September 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>8-15</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>8-15</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>11/24/03</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination undrer 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office Action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/15/05 has been entered.

The present Office Action is a response to applicant's pre-amendment of 9/15/05

following a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

2.   Claims 8-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-7 were canceled.

Priority

3.   Acknowledgment is made of a receipt of the certified copy for JPO 2003-4328 filed on

1/10/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this action

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically
> disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the
> differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior
> art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at
> the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the
> art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynn**

Woods "Getting there via computer – computerized mapping software...", in view of

Amita et al. (US Pat. 6,622,085).

A. As for claims 8-9, and 14-15: Woods discloses that pending claimed functions are fundamental to MapQuest software (i.e., inherent functions are performed by a CPU and a store database when searching with MapQuest.com).

Lynn Woods inherently teaches a map search system and a method using map data, comprising:

- a selecting unit for selecting an item that is used for retrieving an on-map position that is a position on the map data (see Lynn Woods' article, page 1 lines 5, and 25 – a capability to pin-point a location on a detailed map);

- an information storing unit for storing a plurality of wherein a given search information plurality of search retrieving an on-map position that is related search information items, item is related to a given search area of a areas and used for to the given search information item within the given search area (i.e., point of interest or street names .etc., see Lynn Woods's article, page 3 line 11, and page 2 lines 26-31);

- a retrieving unit for retrieving, within a targeted search area of the search areas, an on-map position corresponding to the selected item by collating the selected item with search information items related to the targeted search area;

- an area-designating information storing unit for storing a plurality of area-designating information items, wherein an area-designating information item is related to one of the search areas (this claimed retrieving unit is a capable function of MapQuest.com software - see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 33);

- a determining unit for determining whether the selected item corresponds to any one of

the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, a CPU that runs

MapQuest.com software, page 3 line 11); and

Lynn Woods suggests about an I/O device, and a microprocessor (to designate a

certain area, where an item is input/determined as a certain search area, (see Lynn

Woods's article, page 2 line 33).

Lynn Woods does not expressly disclose about switching area from a certain area into a

given search area.

However, Amita et al. define sub-regions (polygons) of a search area for

shifting/switching from a search area into another search area (see Amita et al., col.2

lines 17-31; and col. 27 lines 1- 31).

It would have been obvious with one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Lynn Woods'

idea and Amita et al. suggestions to define sub-regions of a search area for switching from a

search area into another search area for the advantage of reducing sizes of search spaces

through establishing partial graphs of sub-regions of a search area.

B. As for claims 10-11: Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com)

comprising an area-designating information storing unit stores the area-designating information

items that include words indicating areas included in the respective search areas; an address-

book storing unit for storing a plurality of address-book information items, indicating a facility

that is present in a given position and an address information item of the given position, wherein

the selecting unit selects the item that is a given address-book information item of the address-

book information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 line 19-22), and wherein the

determining unit "links"/collates the address information item included in the given address-book information item with the area-designating information items (see Lynn Woods's article, page 2 lines 26, 40, and 47).

Lynn Woods does not expressly disclose about switching area from a certain area into a given search area.

However, Amita et al. show a communication unit to communicate with storing units (see Amita et al., Fig.4 refs. 4-5, and 7,9), and define sub-regions (polygons) of a search area for shifting/switching from a search area into another search area (see Amita et al., col.2 lines 17-31; and col. 27 lines 1- 31).

It would have been obvious with one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Lynn Woods' idea and Amita et al. suggestions to define sub-regions of a search area for switching from a search area into another search area for the advantage of reducing sizes of search spaces through establishing partial graphs of sub-regions of a search area.

C. As for claim 12:   Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) wherein an area designating unit includes an updating/a notifying unit for updating/notifying an effect that the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area when the area designating unit designates the certain search area as the targeted search area (see Lynn Woods's article, page 1 lines 18, and 28).

D. As for claim 13:   Lynn Woods suggests a map search system (i.e., Mapquest.com) comprising a selection unit for change/select/switch a certain search area as the targeted search area by switching from a previous search area into the certain search area, the area designating unit switches back from the certain search area into the previous search area
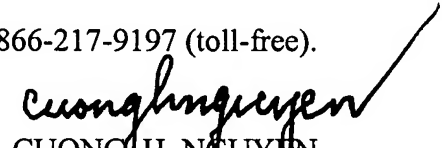
as the targeted search area after completing retrieving within the certain search area –

i.e., Woods teaches to narrow-down a "local" mapping area with "PANNING IN"

functions.

Conclusion

5.   Claims **8-15** are not patentable.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-

6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am – 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the

organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.
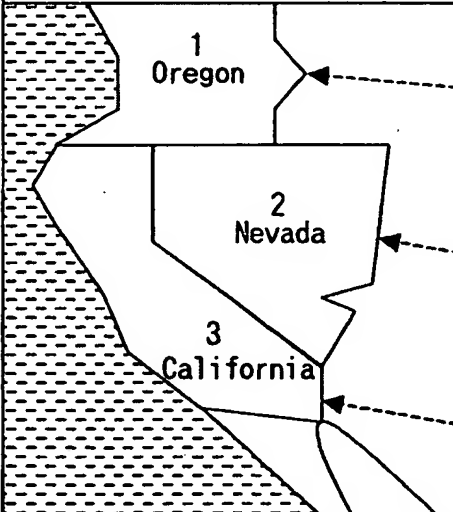
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CUONG H. NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661

FIG. 3

NAME	A-NATIONAL PARK
STREET	16 STREET
CITY	A
STATE	California
PHONE NO.	xx-xxxx-xxxx

FIG. 4

SEARCH INFO.	AREA NO.	AREA-DESIGNATING INFO.
1 Oregon	1	Oregon,Carson City,Portland.....
2 Nevada	2	Nevada,Carson City,Las Vegas
3 California	3	California,Sacramento, Disneyland.....